

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Winter 1992 Volume 62 Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010
Carl J. Bendorf, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010
James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246
W. Ross Silcock, Christmas Bird Count & Winter Field Reports Editor, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

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INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

- * 15-17 May 1992, Cedar Rapids
- * 11-13 September 1992, Lansing

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

- * Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)
- * Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)
- * Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010)
- * Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

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- * Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010):

- * Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
- * Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1987 Edition: 10 for \$1.65, 25 for \$3.50, 100 for \$11.60, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings for \$0.10 each.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY BIRD COLLECTION

JAMES J. DINSMORE

Since mid 1975, I have been responsible for the Iowa State University bird collection. In those 16 years, the collection has grown from 1,541 specimens to the current 2,520 study skins. These additions have come from two major sources. The largest single addition was the 379 skins donated by Philip DuMont in 1986. The rest of the birds were brought in individually and came from a variety of places. Most are birds that were hit by a vehicle, flew into a window, or died from some other natural cause. A few were taken by hunters, and others were old mounted specimens. Among these 979 acquisitions are specimens of a number of species that are rare in Iowa. The purpose of this article is to make others aware of these specimens, to provide a written record of details pertaining to them, and, for some, to provide photo documentation of the specimen. For this article, all except one of the species listed here are either accidental or casual in occurrence in Iowa or, if regular in occurrence, are rare in Iowa according to criteria in Dinsmore et al. (1984). The one exception is the Blue Grosbeak, and the specimen listed here is the only one from Iowa.

METHODS

Each specimen in the Iowa State University bird collection is cataloged on a file card. I reviewed all of the file cards from mid 1975 on and selected those that met the above criteria. Data were noted for each of those specimens and verified from specimen tags.

RESULTS

A total of 54 specimens of 28 species (plus one hybrid) met these criteria. The following summary provides data on those specimens. One of these is a mounted specimen that has not been cataloged with the bird skin collection; for all others, I have listed the specimen's catalog number. If the bird was previously mentioned in the field reports section of *Iowa Bird Life*, that is noted after the catalog number.

Western Grebe: A male found frozen in the ice at Lake Greenfield near Greenfield, Adair County on 27 November 1982 soon died and was brought to me by Michelle Kreidler of Indianola (#1711, *IBL* 53:23).

Cattle Egret: A female, injured by a predator, was found by Don Priebe of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.) at Riverton Wildlife Area, Fremont County in 1980. It died in captivity and was originally #668 at the University of Nebraska, Omaha collection. Barb Wilson of Hastings, Iowa arranged for it to be exchanged to Iowa State where it is specimen #1680. David Newhouse of the D.N.R. found a male dead in the heronry at Folsom Lake, Mills County on 20 July 1984 (#1788). Other than an adult male collected at Little Wall Lake on 21 April 1961 and now a mounted specimen at Iowa State (Weller 1961), I believe these are the only specimens of this species from Iowa.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A male hit by a car near Cambridge, Story County on 26 April 1981 was brought to me by Scott Raub of rural Story County (#1678).

Ross' Goose: There are four recent specimens; a female found dying of avian cholera at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge on 18 November 1979 (#1655), a female shot at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge on 21 November 1979 (#1690), a female taken by Al Hancock of the D.N.R. at Riverton Wildlife Area, Fremont County on 14 January 1983 (#1743), and a female shot at Riverton Wildlife Area, on 9 December 1988 (#2486). Jim White of the D.N.R., who was collecting geese for a research project, shot a male hybrid Snow Goose-Ross' Goose at Riverton Wildlife Area, on 17 February 1984 (#1793, *IBL* 54:16, Fig. 1). Another similar appearing hybrid was found at Fomey Lake, Fremont County on 30 September 1967 (Trauger et al. 1971). Field observers should be on the lookout for such hybrids. These birds are intermediate in size between Snow and Ross's geese. They have smaller head, and shorter and less-massive bill than the Snow Goose. They also lack the warty protuberances on the upper mandible that are typical of Ross's Geese (Trauger et al. 1971).



Figure 1. Hybrid Snow Goose-Ross's Goose (#1793, bottom) compared with Ross's Goose (#2486).

King Eider: Two birds were shot on Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County on 17 November 1986. An immature male shot by James Hansen of Clear Lake was prepared as a mount (Hansen 1987) and is now at Iowa State University. Only the head, foot, and wing of the other bird, a female shot by Rick Poole of Clear Lake were saved and are in the Iowa State collection (#2386, *IBL* 57:15). Photographs of these birds have been published previously (Kent 1987, Hansen 1987).

Oldsquaw: A female was shot by Steve Dinsmore of Ames at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County on 24 October 1987 (#2421, *IBL* 58:18).

Black Scoter: A female or immature male was shot by Steve Dinsmore of Ames at Big Creek Lake, Polk County on 12 November 1986 (#2393, *IBL* 57:15).

Surf Scoter: Six specimens of this rare migrant have been acquired. For four, there is minimal data; all were taken by hunters in the fall, probably in the early to mid 1970s. Three females (#1609, #1621, #1663) were taken at East Twin Lake in Hancock County and another (#1644), sex unknown, was taken at Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo County. A male was shot at Crystal Lake, Hancock County by James Hansen of Clear Lake on 28 October 1987 (#2425, *IBL* 58:18). An immature (sex unknown) was shot at Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County by Steve Dinsmore on 23 October 1990 (#2538, *IBL* 61:18).

White-winged Scoter: A female was shot by Mike Stafford of Ames at Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County on 12 November 1979 (#1667, *IBL* 49:111), and an unsexed bird was found dead (it had been shot) by Roger Sedlacek of Ames at Red Rock Reservoir, Marion County in November 1987 (#2441).

Merlin: A road kill was found by Richard and Peggy Hay near Barnum, Webster County on 12 September 1982 (#1716, *IBL* 52:120). Its sex was not determined. Another road kill, a male, was found near Tripoli, Bremer County by Jon Judson of Defiance on 16 September 1989 (#2508).

Prairie Falcon: Philip DuMont collected a female near Dickens, Clay County on 6 January 1935 (#2002, Fig. 2).

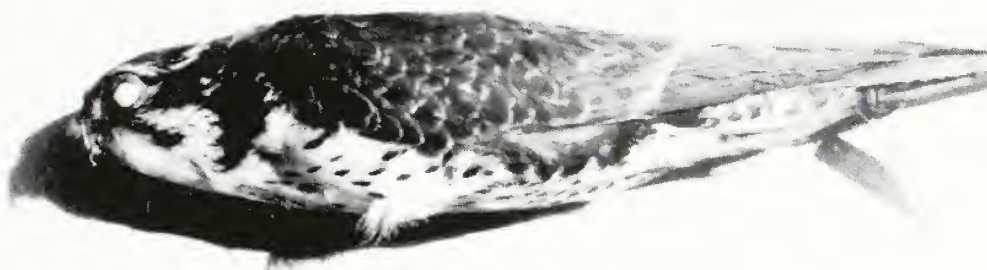


Figure 2. Prairie Falcon (#2002) taken near Dickens, Iowa.

Yellow Rail: A male caught by a dog southwest of Wallingford, Emmet County on 13 September 1982 was given to Iowa State by Bob and Barb Moats of rural Estherville (#1780, Fig. 3). An unsexed immature was found by Steve

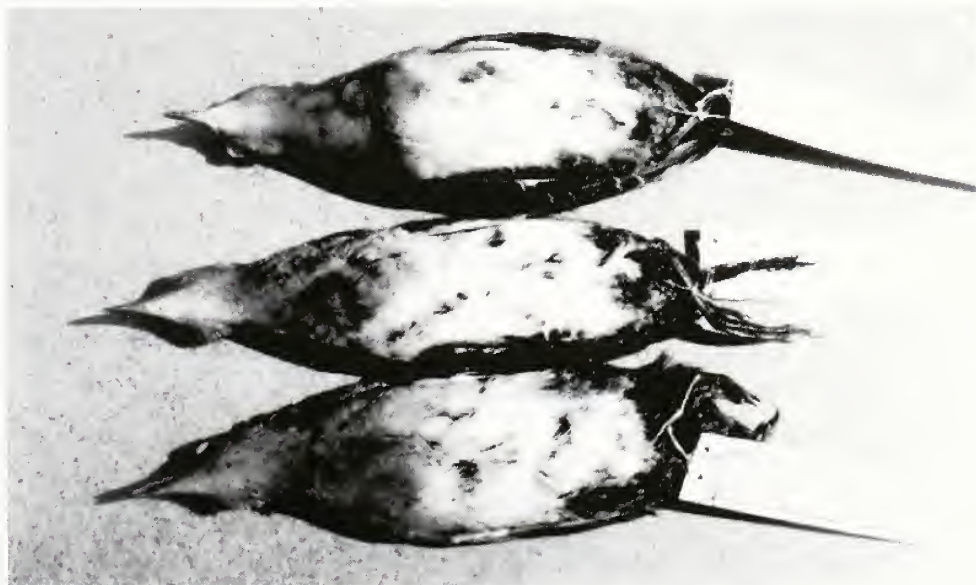


Figure 3. Yellow Rail specimens (top to bottom) #2424, #1897, and #1780.

Dinsmore of Ames at the television towers near Alleman, Polk County on 21 September 1985 (#1897, *IBL* 55:124). An immature male was found dead in Cherokee by Dick Bierman of Cherokee on 20 October 1987 (#2424, *IBL* 58:18). An unsexed bird found dead by Carl Kurtz near St. Anthony, Marshall County on 4 April 1991 (#2544, *IBL* 61:114) is the earliest spring report of the species in Iowa.

Purple Gallinule: A female with a broken leg (#1648) found by Lorna Volmer of Ames on 22 May 1978 died the next day (Dinsmore and Graham 1979). It is the only specimen of this species from Iowa (Fig. 4).

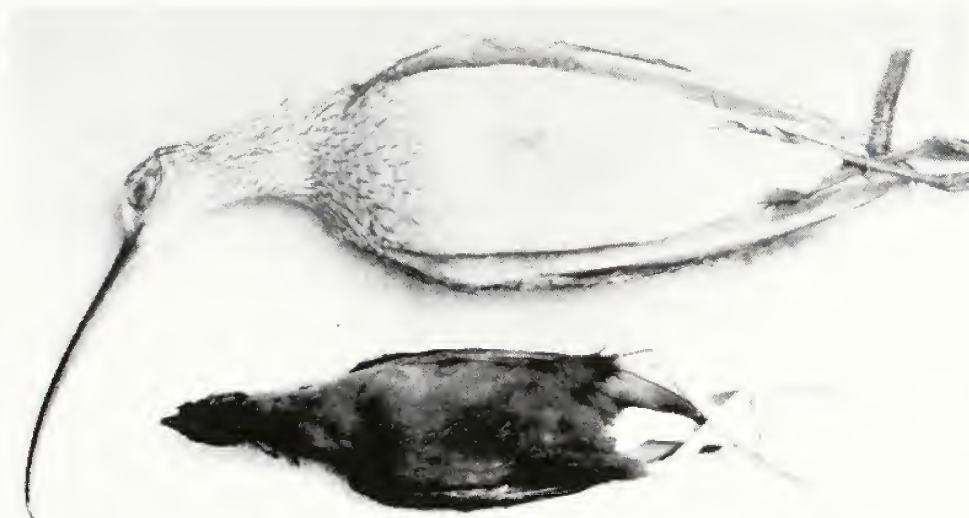


Figure 4. Long-billed Curlew (#2496) from Hornick, Iowa and Purple Gallinule (#1648) from Ames, Iowa.

Sandhill Crane: Bob Kurtt of the D.N.R. found an injured male at Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County on 13 November 1979; it died on 24 November 1979 (#1651, *IBL* 49:112).

Piping Plover: Babs and Loren Padelford of Bellevue, Nebraska found a male dead at the Iowa Power and Light Ponds near Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County on 11 June 1983 (#1771, Fig. 5). There are few Iowa specimens of this endangered species.



Figure 5. Piping Plover (#1771) found dead near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

American Avocet: Laura Jackson of the D.N.R. found a dead avocet in a pond near Martensdale, Warren County on 13 September 1985. It apparently was killed by a turtle, and its bill and neck were damaged. It was made into a study skin (#1915), one of the few from Iowa.

Long-billed Curlew: One was shot near West Swan Lake, Emmet County on 12 November 1967. The bird was mounted and held privately until 1988 when Carl Priebe of Sidney became aware of it and had it donated to Iowa State University (#2496). Carol Henderson of the Minnesota D.N.R. gave Iowa State a study skin of a male (#2520) collected by Harold L. Bond of Tiffin, Iowa. Data on the tag indicate it was taken near Hornick, Woodbury County but the date on the tag is not completely legible and reads Ma_ 31, 1893; most likely it was taken in May (Fig. 4).

Western Sandpiper: Among the specimens received from Philip DuMont was a juvenile female taken by DuMont near Mitchellville, Polk County on 23 August 1933 (#2016, Fig. 6). DuMont has described this bird elsewhere (DuMont 1933a, b). Paul Bartsch collected three at Burlington on 15 October 1895 (DuMont 1933b).

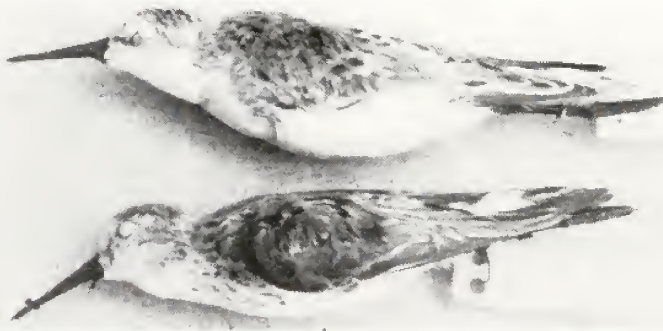


Figure 6. Western Sandpipers (top, #2016) found near Mitchellville, Iowa and for comparison (bottom, #569) from Lost Island Lake, Iowa on 28 July 1934.

Least Tern: The left wing of an adult bird was found by Steve Dinsmore of Ames at the Iowa Power and Light Ponds, Pottawattamie County on 30 May 1988 (#2478)(Bendorf and Kent 1991). It appeared to be the remains of a bird killed by a predator. I also received a study skin (#2519) from the collection of Harold L. Bond of Tiffin, Iowa. This bird was taken on a sandbar in the Missouri River in July 1894 (Fig. 7). Stiles (1938) took two adults on the Missouri River near Sioux City in 1937 but those specimens cannot be located. Thus, these two are the only specimens of this species from Iowa.



Figure 7. Least Tern (#2519) taken on the Missouri River.

Barn Owl: A female was found dead by Art Jenison of Randall near Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek County on 28 November 1981 (#1714). It had a broken wing. Jack McClure found a male caught in some wire in a barn near Ottumwa, Wapello County on 10 May 1983 (#1729, *IBL* 53:51).

Black-billed Magpie: A female taken by Philip DuMont north of Hawarden, Sioux County on 11 February 1934 (#2087) is one of the few specimens of this species from Iowa (Fig. 8). It was in a flock of seven birds.



Figure 8. Black-billed Magpie (#2087) taken near Hawarden, Iowa.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Two were found dead beneath the television towers near Alleman, Polk County on 14 September 1982 (Dinsmore et al. 1983, *IBL* 52:124). One is a male (#1783) and the other is an immature female (#1776). These apparently are the only Iowa specimens of this rare migrant (Fig. 9).

Pine Warbler: Lanny Haldy of Amana found an immature male (#1830) dead in Amana, Iowa County on 23 September 1985 (Fig. 9). It had flown into a window.



Figure 9. Pine Warbler (top, #1830) taken at Amana, Iowa and Black-throated Blue Warblers (middle and bottom, #1783 and #1776 respectively) taken near Alleman, Iowa.

Blue Grosbeak: A male was found dead by Barb Wilson of Hastings near Silver City, Mills County on 3 July 1980. Originally #563 in the University of Nebraska, Omaha collection, Wilson arranged for its exchange to Iowa State where it is now specimen #1746. Since the whereabouts of a male taken by Youngworth on 23 June 1934 north of Sioux City in Plymouth County (Youngworth 1934) are unknown, this is the only specimen from Iowa (Fig. 10).



Figure 10. Blue Grosbeak (#1746) taken near Silver City, Iowa.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Dick Bierman of Cherokee found a road-killed male near Smithland in Woodbury County on 16 April 1986 (Bierman 1986). He had seen a flock of 11 birds there the previous day. The bird was in poor condition, and I could only prepare a flattened skin (#2509, *IBL* 56:92). A photograph of the specimen was published previously (Bierman 1986). This is the first specimen record from Iowa.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: DuMont donated five skins of this uncommon migrant. Four were taken at Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County on 30 September 1933; a juvenile female (#2179), two juvenile males (#2180 and 2182), and an adult female (#2181). DuMont collected two other specimens that day that were placed in the D. J. Bullock collection (DuMont 1934); those specimens apparently have been lost. The other bird, a juvenile female (#2183) was taken north of Ames in Story County in September 1932.

Henslow's Sparrow: DuMont collected a male near Brenton's Slough in northwestern Polk County on 13 May 1934 (#2178).

Brewer's Blackbird: DuMont's collection included three Iowa birds: a male taken by Logan J. Bennett in Emmet County on 13 April 1934 (#2277), a male taken by DuMont north of Ruthven, Palo Alto County on 17 April 1934 (#2275), and a male taken by DuMont north of Laurens in Palo Alto County on 3 May 1935 (#2276). The latter bird is the third latest spring report of the species in Iowa.

DISCUSSION

A total of 28 species (plus one hybrid) are reported here. Five of these (Purple Gallinule, Least Tern, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Chestnut-collared Longspur) represent the only currently existing specimens from Iowa.

The 379 skins from the DuMont collection had been held privately for many years and include 180 specimens that are from Iowa. Among these are the six species discussed in the results. Three other species are represented by large series of specimens from Iowa: Horned Lark-29, Savannah Sparrow-18, and Red-winged Blackbird-31. Many of these have been identified to subspecies and have been commented on earlier (DuMont 1933c).

Besides the birds from the DuMont collection, specimens of 22 rare species have been taken in recent years. None was actively sought as a specimen; all were acquired serendipitously. Although there has been little active collecting of birds in Iowa in recent years, there still is need for documentation of some species. As was pointed out several years ago (Dinsmore et al. 1984), there are several species of birds for which there is no tangible evidence (specimen, photograph, recording of vocalization) of their occurrence in Iowa. An identifiable photograph is probably the best way to document such species. However, if such a bird is found dead, the specimen may be saved for a study skin. Because both state and federal salvage permits are required to possess a bird, it is necessary to promptly contact a person with such permits. By doing so, you may provide a valuable specimen for future study.

I appreciate the comments of Thomas Kent and Steve Dinsmore on earlier drafts of this article. I also appreciate the cooperation of all those who made specimens available to Iowa State. In particular, I thank Philip DuMont, Carrol Henderson, and Barb Wilson who arranged for specimens to be donated to Iowa State University. The bird collection is part of the teaching program in the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University. This is Journal Paper No. 96 of the College of Agriculture teaching program, Iowa State University.

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Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

BIRDING STORY COUNTY'S PRAIRIES AND WETLANDS

JAMES J. DINSMORE AND STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

Story County, like most other counties in Iowa, has lost most of its native prairies and wetlands to agricultural development, roads, and other human disturbance. Fortunately, a few of these natural areas have been preserved or restored and are available for birding. One of these areas, Teig's Marsh, was described in an earlier article (Dinsmore and Zaletel, 1991, *Birding Little Wall and Anderson lakes and Teig's Marsh, Iowa Bird Life* 61:69-71). Four of the best such areas in the county are located north and east of Ames.



Start at the intersection of Interstate 35 and 13th Street (exit 113) at the northeast edge of Ames. Follow 13th street east about 0.5 miles and turn north (left) at the first intersection. Follow this road north 0.9 miles to the parking lot for Ketelesen Marsh on your left (Figure 1, stop #1). This, like the other areas in this article, is a county-owned area that covers about 65 acres. The wetland nearest the road is undergoing restoration. It often attracts numerous shorebirds during migration including yellowlegs, various peeps, and Pectoral Sandpipers. A second natural wetland is further west near the interstate highway. This pond sometimes has a few nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Swamp Sparrows. Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink are regular in the grasslands between the two ponds. Although not a spectacular wetland, this site is notable among botanists for being one of the two places in the world where a species of algae in the genus *Nitella* has been found.

From the parking lot, drive back to 13th Street and turn left (east). Follow the paved road east for 1 miles where the pavement ends. Continue east for about 1.5 miles to Larsen Marsh, a 12-acre area on your left (stop #2). Like the previous stop, this too is a restored wetland but natural vegetation is well-established here. In some years Yellow-headed Blackbirds nest here as well as American Coot, Blue-winged Teal, and Mallard. American Bittern, Common Snipe, and numerous other water birds are regular here in migration. Large flocks of Lapland Longspur and Lesser Golden-Plover have been found in the fields near this marsh during migration, and Smith's Longspurs have also been seen in the area.

From Larsen Marsh, retrace your path 1.5 miles west to where you meet the pavement. Turn right (north) on a gravel road. Drive north 2 miles and then turn left (west). In 0.8 miles you will reach Cooper Prairie Marsh on your right (stop #3). This 10-acre area includes a native marsh with some surrounding upland. This marsh is deeper than the two previous ones and is

Story City

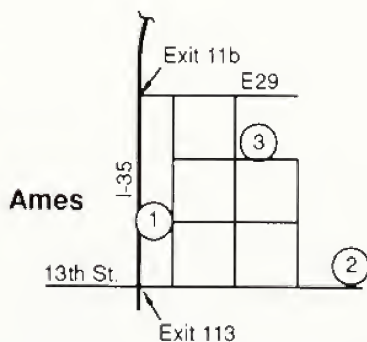
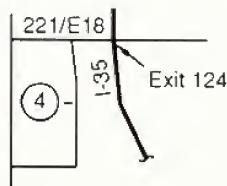


Figure 1. Map of areas mentioned in article. Numbers refer to areas discussed in text.

more dependable for nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Blue-winged Teal are regular here. Both Sora and Virginia Rail are regular here in migration and may stay to nest in wet years. Sharp-tailed Sparrow has been found in the wetter grassy areas here in migration.

From the parking lot at Cooper Prairie Marsh, turn right and go 0.2 miles to the first intersection. Turn right (north) and drive north 1 mile to a blacktop road (E29). Turn left and drive 1.2 miles to interstate 35. Turn right onto the northbound ramp and follow interstate 35 north about 7 miles to exit 123. Exit the interstate and turn left (west) onto the paved road (highway 221/county road E18). Follow this road for 0.7 miles and turn left on a gravel road that proceeds south along the edge of the wooded area. Follow this road 1.2 miles and turn right at the county signs onto a narrow lane leading to Doolittle Prairie (stop #4). This lane takes you to a parking lot at the edge of Doolittle Prairie, about 0.3 miles from the gravel road. The lane is narrow and somewhat rutted but other than during very wet weather is safe to drive. This 41-acre area contains the largest native prairie in Story County and one of the richest for plant life in central Iowa. Most of the public area is to the north. It consists of open prairie dotted with numerous small depressions that are flooded during wet years. Besides the native grasses that are typical of native prairies, this site is rich in other prairie plants including blazing star, butterfly weed, compass plant, Indian plantain, stiff goldenrod and sawtooth sunflower. There are numerous clumps of willows, dogwood, wild plum, and other shrubby trees along the edge of the area and along several old fence lines. A trail leading north from the parking lot will take you to the largest open expanse of prairie as well as past several small wetlands.

Regular nesting species here include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Willow Flycatcher, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Sedge Wren, and Yellow Warbler. Bell's Vireo has been regular here in recent years. The numerous wetlands attract a number of aquatic species in migration including four species of rails (including King and Yellow rail), both American and Least bittern, several shorebirds, and Le Conte's Sparrow. Long-eared Owls have been found here in winter some years.

This completes your tour of these areas. To reach the nearby Little Wall and Anderson lake areas, retrace your path to highway 221, turn left (west), and proceed 2 miles to where it intersects highway 69. Turn right (north) and follow highway 69 north for 8 miles to Little Wall Lake.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010 and Dept. of Zoology, Box 7617, North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh, NC 27607-7617

FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1991

THOMAS H. KENT, JAMES L. FULLER, AND CARL J. BENDORF

WEATHER

August continued the dry pattern that began in mid-June. Rainfall varied widely, with only 1.16 inches at Keosauqua and 1.27 inches at Shenandoah and up to 6.61 inches at Sigourney and 6.51 inches at Storm Lake. Much of the rain fell in a 30-hour period on the 7th and 8th. Temperatures were above normal at the beginning and end of the month but below average from the 3rd through the 20th.

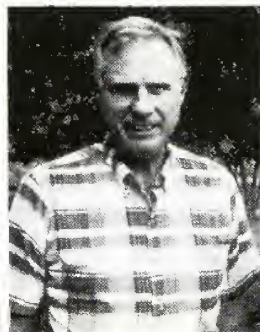
September was very warm and wet the first half of the month and extremely dry and cold the second half. The most significant weather event of the month was on the 19th and 20th when more than 90% of the state reported freezing temperatures. This may be the earliest statewide freeze since 1890.

October temperatures were typically erratic with a high of 87 at Glenwood on the 1st and a low of 13 at several locations on the 30th. Several strong thunderstorm systems developed on the 23rd which presaged a wetter period. The first snow came in flurries in northwestern Iowa on the 5th. Much more snow began late on the 30th near Sioux City and spread into the northwest third of Iowa on the 31st. As much as 15 inches accumulated at several northwestern Iowa locations by the 1st of November when high winds (up to 59 mph) created blizzard conditions, possibly the worst in Iowa in the fall since 1880. Just east of the snow area was a wide band of heavy freezing rain. The rest of Iowa recorded one to four inches of rain. Overall, the ice storm of southwestern, central, and north-central Iowa was one of the most destructive ever recorded thanks to a combination of heavy precipitation, persistent cold, and high winds.

Inclement weather continued in November which ranks as the snowiest and second coldest on record in Iowa. Much of Iowa experienced its earliest sub-zero temperatures on record in early November. In addition to the storm described above, major winter storms moved across the state on the 23rd and the 29th. The former dumped up to 15 inches of snow in northeastern Iowa, and the latter produced unusual thunderstorms and more ice and wind (up to 66 mph at Ottumwa and Cedar Rapids).



Tom Kent



Jim Fuller



Carl Bendorf

| Precipitation and Temperature with Deviation from Normal | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| | Temperature, F | | | Precipitation, inches | |
| | Mean (Deviation) | | | Mean (Deviation) | |
| August | 72.8 | (+0.7) | | 3.49 | (-0.61) |
| September | 63.1 | (-0.4) | | 2.76 | (-0.66) |
| October | 50.3 | (-2.4) | | 5.21 | (+1.25) |
| November | 28.6 | (-8.6) | | 4.40 | (+2.89) |

GENERAL TRENDS

The early part of the season was relatively normal with some good concentrations of shorebirds and warblers. Beth Proescholdt described the movement of hawks through central Iowa with daily counts at Grammer Grove in September and October. High counts were 125 on 18 Sep, 293 on 5 Oct, and 190 on 6 Oct. The movement of waterfowl was late and rushed by the strong storms in November. The storms, however, resulted in some trapping of passerines and a number of late records.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The most exciting find was the first documented Common Ground-Dove for the state. Three Red Phalaropes and 2 Sabine's Gulls were seen by many birders. Holdovers from summer included Laughing Gull and Mississippi Kite. In addition, a second-year Laughing Gull was reported. An ani species and a Western Wood-Pewee were reported. Casual species (see newly revised Checklist of Iowa Birds, *IBL* 61:101-109) included Pacific Loon, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented), [] = record date, m.ob.= many observers

Pacific Loon: 1 was studied repeatedly at Pleasant Creek S.P. from 9 to 19 Nov (*JLF, *THK, *DLD, *DRP, *MPr, *CJB)[3rd latest].

Common Loon: The first was at Saylorville Res. on 26 Sep (BE). Another was at Rock Creek L. by 12 Oct (*GJB). The peak was 50 at Coralville Res. on 1 Nov (JLF). The last was at L. Geode on 17 Nov (CRF).

Pied-billed Grebe: The peak was 22 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Oct (AMJ). The last was at Rock Valley on 13 Nov (JV).

Horned Grebe: The first was at IPL Ponds on 19 Sep (BKP/LJP). Up to 6 were at 14 other locations from 15 Oct to 22 Nov, the last from Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

Eared Grebe: 2 were at IPL Ponds on 18 Sep (BKP/LJP). Singles were at Saylorville Res. on 6 Oct (BE) and 3 Nov (AMJ); at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 9 Nov (Jeff B. Dankert fide DLD), 15 Nov (JLF), 19 Nov (CJB), and 20 Nov (MPr); and at West Okoboji on 16 Nov (LAS). At Rathbun Res., 5 were seen on 16 Nov (RLC) and 2 on 22 Nov (TNJ).

Western Grebe: A maximum of 5 adults and 4 juveniles were seen at Silver L. in Worth Co. from 14 to 31 Aug (*DeC, JLF, CRF, JLW, PA/RA). On 12 Oct, 2 were at Trumbull L. (*LAS). Singles were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 29 Oct (MCK), at De Soto N.W.R. on 3 Nov (BKP/LJP), at Coralville Res. on 7 Nov (THK, JLF), and at Marshalltown on 13 Nov (MPr).

American White Pelican: Peaks at reservoirs were 3,500 at Saylorville on 15 Sep (BE), 3,000 at Red Rock as early as 3 Aug (AMJ), and 80 at Coralville on 2 Sep (DLD). In far eastern Iowa, 7 were at Bettendorf on 15 Oct (PCP). The last was at IPL Ponds on 25 Oct (BKP/LJP).

Double-crested Cormorant: Peaks at reservoirs were 2,000 at Coralville on 27 Sep (THK), 1,500 at Rathbun on 6 Oct (RLC), and 476 at Saylorville on 28 Oct (BE). Singles lingered through the end of the period.

American Bittern: Singles were at Kettleston Hogsback on 17 Aug (JLF) and Dubuque on 16 Sep (PE).

Least Bittern: 1 was at Green Island on 26 Sep (PE).

Great Blue Heron: Peaks at reservoirs were 510 at Coralville on 18 Aug (THK), 250 at Red Rock on 25 Aug (JSi), and 184 at Saylorville on 4 Aug (SJD). Many lingered through the end of the period.

Great Egret: Peaks at reservoirs were 150 at Coralville on 2 Sep (DLD), 138 at Red Rock on 10 Aug (AMJ), 53 at Saylorville on 23 Sep (BE), and 43 at Rathbun on 6 Oct (TNJ). Also, 100 were along the Des Moines River in Kossuth Co. on 11 Aug (MCK). The last was rescued from ice in Kossuth Co. on 2 Nov and released two days later (MCK).

Little Blue Heron: An immature was at Runnells A. on 14 Aug (MPr).

Cattle Egret: 9 were at L. Manawa on 1 Oct (BKP/LJP-photo). Singles were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Aug (EuA/EIA), at Coralville Res. on 31 Aug (THK), and w. of Mason City on 24 Oct (RG).

Green-backed Heron: 1 was at Green Island on 27 Sep (PE).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-3 were reported from 5 locations up until 6 Oct.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Immatures were at Coralville Res. on 11 Aug (*DLD) and NE Warren Co. on 20 Aug (JSi-details). Another was reported without details.

Tundra Swan: An adult and immature were at Colfax on 13 Nov (MPr-details). At the usual location, Pool 9 in Allamakee Co., 500 were present on 16 Nov (DeC). Single immatures were at West Okoboji on 16 Nov (LAS) and Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (JLF, THK).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The first was at Swan W.A. (at the upper extent of Red Rock Res.) on 14 Sep (AMJ, RLC). The next earliest were 8 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 25 Oct (MCK).

Ross' Goose: 1 was at Rathbun Res. on 16 Nov (RLC).

American Black Duck: The first was in Lucas Co. on 13 Oct (RLC). In western Iowa, 1 was at IPL Ponds on 27 Oct (BKP/LJP).

Northern Shoveler: 1 was still at De Soto N.W.R. on 16 Nov (BKP/LJP).

Gadwall: The peak at Rathbun Res. was 108 on 20 Oct (RLC).

Canvasback: 40,000 at Pool 19 in Lee Co. on 9 Nov dropped to 17,000 the next day when ice formed (RIC).

Greater Scaup: 1 report without details was received.

Lesser Scaup: Peaks were 9,000 at Saylorville Res. on 30 Oct (BE) and 3,000 at Red Rock Res. on 24 Oct (RLC).

Oldsquaw: Singles were seen at Saylorville Res. on 10 and 12 Nov (BE, EuA/EIA) and at Red Rock Res. on 11, 24, and 27 Nov (AMJ, JSi, JLF).

Surf Scoter: 2 females or immatures were at Hageman Farm Pond in Winneshiek Co. on 23 Sep (*DeC)[record earliest]. Others were reported from IPL Ponds on 16 and 29 Oct (BKP/LJP, TEB) and Pleasant Creek S.P. on 27-28 Oct and 15-19 Nov (MPr, JLF, THK, CJB).

White-winged Scoter: The first was at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov (BE). Singles were at Pleasant Creek S.P. from 10 to 19 Nov (DRP, m.ob.) and on the river in Iowa City from 18 to 23 Nov (CJB, THK, DRP). From 1 to 7 were reported from Red Rock Res. from 16 Nov (AMJ) to 27 Nov (THK).

Common Goldeneye: The first were at IPL Ponds on 30 Oct (BKP).

Bufflehead: The first were at IPL Ponds on 21 Oct (BKP). The peak was 200 at Pool 19 on 8 Nov (RIC).

Hooded Merganser: 28 were at Red Rock Res. on 9 Nov (RLC).

Red-breasted Merganser: A female was at L. Manawa on 19 Oct (BKP/LJP)[3rd earliest].

Turkey Vulture: Counts included 65 on 27 Sep in SE Dallas Co. (EuA/EIA), 60 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 29 Sep (DCP), and 71 at Dubuque on 6 Oct (PE).

Osprey: The first was at Runnells A. on 11 Aug (JSi). The last was at Hawarden on 23 Oct (DeC).

Mississippi Kite: Of the 2 that summered at Des Moines, the female left on 25 Aug and the male on 27 Aug (Fred Crane fide JLF).

Bald Eagle: Several along the Mississippi River and at Coralville Res. in August may have been nesting birds. Up to 30 on 9 Nov in Clinton and Scott counties were considered a large number for that date (PCP).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Counts included 18 on 18 Sep and 42 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr) and 32 on 24 Sep at Algona (MCK).

Cooper's Hawk: Counts included 9 on 18 Sep and 14 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr) and 5 on 24 Sep at Algona (MCK).

Northern Goshawk: The first was in NE Madison Co. on 26 Sep (EuA/EIA). About 9 others were reported from Cerro Gordo, Story, Johnson, Des Moines, Polk, Marion, and Warren counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Singles were in Hardin Co. on 17 Sep (MPr), Coralville Res. on 8, 11 Nov (JLF), and Red Rock Res. on 9 Nov (TNJ, MPr).

Broad-winged Hawk: Counts included 23 on 20 Sep at Grammer Grove (BPr), 216 on 21 Sep in Iowa City (DRP), 180 on 24 Sep at Algona (MCK), and 200 on 25 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (CFI, JLW).

Swainson's Hawk: An adult and 2 juveniles were near a probable nest in Mason City until 27 Aug (JLW). Singles were in Marion Co. on 3 Aug (AMJ), at Grammer Grove on 11 and 22 Sep (BPr, MPr), and Dubuque on 1 Oct (PE). In Dallas Co., 3 were seen on 28 Sep (EuA/EIA).

Red-tailed Hawk: Counts were 561 on 11 Sep and 203 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr), 25 on 24 Sep and 23 on 29 Oct at Algona (MCK), and 50 at Council Bluffs on 25 Oct (BKP). A Krider's Hawk was at Bancroft on 29 Oct (MCK), and a Harlan's Hawk was at L. Manawa on 27 Nov (TEB).

Rough-legged Hawk: The first 2 were in O'Brien Co. on 26 Sep (LAS).

Golden Eagle: Details were given for immatures in Franklin Co. on 22 Oct (RIC) and Madison Co. on 28 Oct (EuA/EIA).

Merlin: The first was at Runnells A. on 10 Sep (JSi). About 25 were reported from many locations through the end of the period.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 were seen many times at Runnells A. (*DCP) and at least 1 was a marked bird from the Des Moines releases. About 12 were seen at various locations through 8 Nov.

Prairie Falcon: Singles with acceptable details were in Warren Co. on 27 Oct (*AMJ), at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (*RIC), and in Sioux Center on 16 Nov (JV-details).

Gray Partridge: In Appanoose Co. on the southern edge of the state, birds were seen in August and November (TNJ, RLC). This species was also regular in NE Des Moines Co. (CRF).

Wild Turkey: 26 were in Dubuque on 20 Oct (PE).

Yellow Rail: 2 were at Snake Creek M. on 20-21 Sep (*JLF, JSi, EuA/EIA)[2nd earliest], and another was at Coralville Res. on 22 Sep (*DRP).

Sora: October reports were from Fairfield on the 1st (DCP) and n. of Burlington on the 5th (CRF).

Common Moorhen: 1 adult and 2 juveniles were at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 21 Aug (JLW) and 3 adults were n. of Zirbel Sl. on 15 Sep (JLW).

Sandhill Crane: 3 were reported from late August through the end of October at Otter Creek M. (Bob Kurtz fide JJD).

Black-bellied Plover: The first was at Runnells A. on 11 Aug (SJD) and the peak was 17 there on 24 Aug (AMJ). The last was at Red Rock Res. on 25 Nov (AMJ).

Lesser Golden-Plover: The first was at Runnells A. on 11 Aug (SJD). Sizeable flocks were 40 at Davenport on 5 Sep (PCP), 52 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Sep (RLC), and 40 in W Sioux Co. on 18 Oct (JV).

Semipalmated Plover: The last was at Swan W.A. on 20 Oct (AMJ).

Piping Plover: Singles were reported at Saylorville Res. on 28 Aug (BE), 30 Aug (PA/RA), and 17 Sep (EuA/EIA)[2nd latest]. An adult and immature were at IPL Ponds on 18 Sep and the adult remained on 19 Sep (BKP/LJP)[record latest].

Killdeer: 300 gathered in Kossuth Co. fields on 4 Aug (MCK).

American Avocet: At Saylorville Res., 1 was present on 10 Aug (EuA/EIA, SJD), 18 on 17 Sep (BE, EuA/EIA), and 3 on 24 Oct (EuA/EIA). Others were 2 at Coralville Res. on 11 Aug (DRP, JLF) and 1 at Runnells A. on 13 Aug (JSi).

Greater Yellowlegs: The peak was 40 in Kossuth Co. on 4 Aug (MCK). The last was at Rathbun Res. on 20 Nov (TNJ).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Counts included 1,200 in Kossuth Co. on 4 Aug (MCK), 100 at Amana L. on 4 Aug (THK), and 500 at Runnells A. on 13 Sep (DCP). The last was 1 at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 19 Nov (CJB-details)[3rd latest].

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 was at Fairfield on 11 Oct (DCP-details) and 1 was at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. on 13 Oct (PA/RA-photo)[record latest]. No details were given for an even later report.

Willet: Singles were at Mason City on 11 Aug (JLW) and at Runnells A. from 25 Aug to 15 Sep (JSi, m.ob.)(3rd latest).

Spotted Sandpiper: The last were singles at L. Manawa on 6 Oct (BKP/LJP) and Swan W.A. on 27 Oct (AMJ).

Upland Sandpiper: Unusual were 22 on a sod farm near Davenport on 17 Aug with 2 remaining until 5 Sep (PCP).

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 were at Saylorville Res. on 2 Aug and 1 was there on 17 Sep (EuA/EIA, PA/RA). Singles were at Casey Barrow Access in Des Moines Co. on 28 Aug (CRF) and Runnells A. from 7 to 15 Sep (AMJ, m.ob.).

Sanderling: The first was at IPL Ponds on 9 Aug (BKP). From 1 to 6 were at 7 other locations with the last at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 2 Nov (AMJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Counts were 200 on 4 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK), 350 on 4 Aug at Bays Branch (AMJ), 500 on 10 Aug at Coralville Res. (DLD), and 500 on 10 Aug at Red Rock Res. (AMJ).

Western Sandpiper: Reports included 2 at Mason City on 2 Aug (JLW-details), 1 in Kossuth Co. on 4 Aug (MCK-details), 11 on 4 Aug at Bays Branch (AMJ-details), 3 in basic plumage on 1 Sep at Coralville Res. (*DRP), and 1 on 14 Sep at Runnells A. (DRP).

Least Sandpiper: Counts were 200 on 4 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK), 150 on 4 Aug at Bays Branch (AMJ), and 250 on 10 Aug at Runnells A. (AMJ).

- White-rumped Sandpiper:** The white rump was seen on 2 at Mason City on 2 Aug (JLW). Another report gave no details.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Many were reported from 4 Aug to 11 Oct with a peak of 50 at Runnells A. on 18 Aug (JSi).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Counts were 1,600 on 4 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK), 2,000 on 4 Aug and 3,000 on 29 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK), and 1,500 at Red Rock Res. on 10 Aug (AMJ). The last were 4 at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 2 Nov (AMJ).
- Dunlin:** The first were 20 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Oct (JSi) and the last 3 were there on 11 Nov (AMJ). Peaks were 50 at Coralville Res. on 26 Oct (THK) and 59 at Red Rock Res. on 27 Oct (AMJ).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak of 500 were at Red Rock Res. on 7 Sep (AMJ) and 13 Sep (DCP). The last 2 were at Algona on 6 Oct (MCK).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Many more than usual were reported. The first were 3 at Red Rock Res. on 3 Aug (AMJ). The peak was 35 at Coralville Res. on 4 Aug (THK). The last was at Saylorville Res. on 8 Oct (AMJ).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** The peak was 6 at Red Rock Res. on 2 Sep (JSi), and the last was there on 15 Sep (PCP).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first were 5 at Red Rock Res. on 14 Sep (THK, m.ob.). The peak was 88 in Lucas Co. on 13 Oct (RLC). The last 7 were at Red Rock Res. on 27 Oct (AMJ).
- American Woodcock:** Singles were at Walnut Creek N.W.R. on 6 Aug (SJD) and L. Manawa on 27 Sep (BKP).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** 14 were near Union Slough N.W.R. on 16 Aug (JLF).
- Red-necked Phalarope:** The first were 2 in Kossuth Co. on 4 Aug (MCK)[2nd earliest]. From 1 to 4 were at 6 other sites with the last at Saylorville Res. on 21 Oct (BE)[2nd latest].
- Red Phalarope:** A bird in basic plumage was reported from Saylorville Res. on 4 Aug (*SJD-photo) and juveniles were there on 25-29 Sep (*MPR, *AMJ, *DRP, *JLF, *RIC, *RA-photo, *GDW, *PCP, *RLC, *JJD, TS-photo, JiD-photo) and 26 Oct (*MPR).
- Laughing Gull:** A report from June will be referred to the Records Committee. A juvenile previously reported was at Red Rock Res. on 4 Aug (*DRP) and 6 Aug (*SJD, photo).
- Franklin's Gull:** The first were 3 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Aug (SJD) and a first-year bird at Coralville Res. on 20 Aug (THK, JLF). Counts included 800 at Algona on 22 Sep (MCK), 10,000 in Dickinson Co. on 22 Sep (LAS), 5,000 at L. Manawa on 27 Sep (BKP/LJP), and 5,100 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep (BE). The last was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (JLF, THK).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** The first was at Saylorville Res. on 2 Oct (AMJ). Counts included 429 at Saylorville Res. on 30 Oct (BE), 100 at Coralville Res. on 3 Nov (DRP), and 485 at Pool 19 on 8 Nov (RIC). At Saylorville Res., 12 remained on 30 Nov (BE).
- Ring-billed Gull:** 675 were at Red Rock Res. on 6 Aug (SJD), and 10,000 were there on 27 Nov (THK).
- Herring Gull:** The first was an adult at Saylorville Res. on 10 Aug (SJD), and an immature was at Davenport on 16 Aug (PCP).
- Thayer's Gull:** A first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. on 24 Oct (*AMJ), and a second-winter bird was there on 25-28 Nov (*AMJ, *THK).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An adult was at Coralville Res. on 24 and 28 Nov (JLF, *THK).
- Glaucous Gull:** An adult was reported from Saylorville Res. on 9 and 14 Nov (BE, EuA/EIA, AMJ)[record earliest].
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** First-year birds were at Cedar L. on 1 Nov, (*AMJ), Coralville Res. on 2 Nov (*JLF, *AMJ, THK-photo), and Pleasant Creek S.P. (1-2 birds) from 9 to 16 Nov (*DLD, *MPR, m.ob.).
- Sabine's Gull:** An adult and juvenile first discovered below Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport from a gambling boat on 13 Oct (*RHP, John King-photo) were seen at close range by many as they ranged between Bettendorf and Moline on 14 Oct (*PCP-photo, *THK-photo, *DRP, *JLF, *AMJ, TS-photo, JiD-photo). The adult was last seen on 26 Oct (*RA-photo). The juvenile left earlier.



Caspian Tern: Peaks were 50 at Red Rock Res. on 13 Sep (THK) and 64 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Sep (BE). The last was at Dubuque on 12 Oct (PE).

Common Tern: Details were given for 4 adults at Saylorville Res. on 9 Aug (SJD), 2 at Casey Barrow Access n. of Burlington on 10 Aug (CRF), 4 juveniles at Saylorville Res. on 22 Sep (AMJ), and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 25 and 26 Sep (MPR, DRP).

Forster's Tern: 2 were at Bettendorf on 14 Oct (THK), and 1 was at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 1 Nov (AMJ, JSi).

Least Tern: A juvenile was at Coralville Res. on 20 Aug (JLF, *THK).

Common Ground-Dove: The first documented record for this species in Iowa was a bird discovered on 19 Oct along the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids by Sam Dunkle, a former Iowan visiting his mother. It was seen by many (*JLF, *THK-photo, *DRP, *PCP, *GDW, *CJB, *AMJ, *PA, *BKP/LJP, *MPR, JiD-photo). It was last seen on 1 Nov (AMJ).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The last was on 5 Sep at Dubuque (PE).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The last was on 2 Oct at Norwalk (AMJ).

Ani species: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Long-eared Owl: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 7 Nov (JLF).

Short-eared Owl: An August sighting was reported without details.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 7 Nov (JLF, THK), and 1 was at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. on 27 Nov (JV).

Common Nighthawk: 100 were at Algona on 8 Sep (MCK), and 73 were at Des Moines on 3 Oct (PA/RA). The last were 2 in Ames on 6 Oct (PM) and 6 in Des Moines on 10 Oct (RIC).

Chimney Swift: The concentration at Fairfield High School started with 657 on 11 Aug, built to 4,000 on 7 Oct, and ended with 4 on 10 Oct (DCP). The last was at Burlington on 1 Nov (CRF)[2nd latest].

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The peak was 14 at Norwalk on 15 Sep (AMJ). The last 2 were at Mason City on 11 Oct (JLW).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The first was in Iowa City on 28 Sep (THK).

Northern Flicker: 53 were migrating at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep (BE). A red-shafted bird was in Ames on 2 Nov (JJD).

Pileated Woodpecker: Singles were seen at Saylorville Res. on 12 Oct (RA/PA), Des Moines on 16 Oct and 13 Nov (RIC), and at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 20 Nov (MPR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: It was unusual that the first was in the south at Burlington on 10 Aug (CRF) and the last was in the north at Pilot Knob S.P. on 9 Oct (JLW) [2nd latest]. Seven other reports of 1-4 birds all came from the eastern half of the state.

Western Wood-Pewee: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The last were on 27 Sep at Iowa City (DRP) and Dubuque (PE).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The first was on 18 Aug at Grammer Grove (MPR). The peak was 4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 9 Sep (RLC-details). The last were 2 on 19 Sep at Dubuque (PE-details).

Acadian Flycatcher: 6 were identified by their "peet-suh" call at the Mines of Spain in Dubuque Co. on 23 Sep (PE)[3rd latest].

Least Flycatcher: 2 were at A.A. Call S.P. on 14 Aug (MCK).

Eastern Phoebe: A late bird was in Scott Co. on 10 Nov (AMB-details)[2nd latest].

Great Crested Flycatcher: The last were singles on 7 Sep in Ames (PM) and 15 Sep in Warren Co. (THK).

Eastern Kingbird: Peak migration was on 8 Sep with 72 at Saylorville Res. (BE) and 71 in Marion Co. (RLC).

Purple Martin: 2,000 were at L. Manawa from 5 to 30 Aug (BKP/LJP).

Tree Swallow: 10,000 were at Green Island on 26 Sep (PE), and 6,000 were at Runnells A. on 29 Sep (JSi). There were still 503 in Lucas Co. on 13 Oct (RLC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 500 were at Huron Island in Des Moines Co. on 10 Sep (PCP). The last was at Saylorville Res. on 26 Sep (DRP).

Cliff Swallow: High counts were 2,000 in Guthrie Co. on 4 Aug (AMJ) and 1,200 at Cardinal M. on 5 Sep (DeC). The last was in Des Moines Co. on 3 Oct (DRP).

Barn Swallow: The last were 1 on 16 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW) and 5 on 17 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP).

Blue Jay: Three flocks with 340 total individuals were in Kossuth Co. on 24 Sep (MCK).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The first were 2 on 2 Sep at Sweet M. (DeC). An unusually large concentration of 10 was seen at Jester P. on 29 Sep (Dennis Thompson fide EuA/EIA). November reports included 2 in Ida Co. on the 13th (PE) and 1 in Sioux Center on the 20th (JV). There were six other singles reported in October.

Brown Creeper: The first were singles at Mason City on 23 Sep (CFi) and 28 Sep (JLW), and Hickory Hill P. on 28 Sep (THK).

Rock Wren: An interesting report of 1 or 2 trapped in a garage came from Red Oak on 17 Sep (*DaC).

Carolina Wren: This species has made a great comeback, and appears to be relatively common, with 16 reports of 29 birds, all of which were in the southern half of the state except 1 or 2 birds at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC). Of note, were 8 individuals at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 1 Sep (DCP).

House Wren: There were four Oct reports, with 2 or 3 on 25 Oct at Cedar Rapids being quite late (DRP)[ties 3rd latest].

Winter Wren: This species was widely sighted with 13 reports from across the state. The first were 2 on 5 Sep at Dubuque (PE-details). The last was 1 on 4 Nov at Fairfield (DCP).

Sedge Wren: The last was 1 on 20 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Marsh Wren: The only reports were from October with 3 at Fairfield on the 5th (DCP) and 1 at L. Manawa on the 10th (BKP/LJP).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first were 2 on 26 Sep in Grundy Co. (MPr) and 10 on 28 Sep at Hickory Hill P. (THK). The peak was 15 on 5 Nov at Glendale Cem. in Des Moines (EIA/EuA).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first were on 19 Sep with 1 at Coralville Res (DRP) and 2 at Dubuque (PE). The peak was on 29 Sep with 15 in Warren Co. (AMJ) and 10 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP). The last were 3 on 2 Nov at Coralville Res. (AMJ).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One was late on 24 Sep at Pine Lake S.P. (MPr)[ties 3rd latest].

Veery: A pair was at Hickory Hill P. on 6 Sep (DRP).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: The first was on 22 Aug at Des Moines (JSi)[3rd earliest]. Others were singles in Warren Co. on 3 Sep (AMJ) and at Hickory Hill P. on 6 Sep (DRP).

Swainson's Thrush: The only reports were 2 at Hickory Hill P. on 6 Sep (DRP) and 2 at Grammer Grove on 7 Sep (MPr).

Hermit Thrush: The first was on 28 Sep at Iowa City (THK). There were 9 other reports of 1-4 birds, with the last on 14 Nov at Iowa City (THK) and Algona (MCK).

Wood Thrush: One was at Trumbull L. on 8 Sep (LAS).

American Robin: A flock of 250 was in Wayne Co. on 6 Oct (RLC).

Varied Thrush: There were 4 this fall, which is more than usual. An adult male in the Meyer's yard at Robins in Linn Co. was first seen 15 Oct (B. & M. Meyer fide JLF)[record earliest] and stayed through 21 Oct (JLF, THK). Others were 1 in Plymouth Co. on 6 Nov (Bob Livermore fide BFH), a male in Betty and Ed Savage's yard in Marshalltown on 6 Nov (MPr), and a female at a Polk Co. feeder on 24 Nov (BE-details).

Gray Catbird: The last was on 30 Oct at Fairfield (DCP).

Northern Mockingbird: There were only 2 reported -- 1 was n. of Hastings in Mills Co. on 26 Oct (BLW) and 1 was in a Marshalltown yard on 24 Nov (Betty Savage fide BPr).

Brown Thrasher: The last was on 25 Nov at Macbride Nature Recreation A. (Dave Conrads fide JLF).

American Pipit: Very early were 2 at the Runnells A. on 10 Aug (*AMJ)[record earliest]. There were 15 other reports with a peak of 125 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Oct (AMJ). The last were on 2-3 Nov with 1-5 birds seen at the Coralville Res. (AMJ, THK, DRP) and at the Saylorville Res. (AMJ).

Cedar Waxwing: Large flocks were 350 at Dubuque on 9 Sep (PE) and 100 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 11 Sep (RG).

Northern Shrike: Single birds with no details were reported from Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct and Madison Co. on 13 Nov (EuA/EIA).

Loggerhead Shrike: The only reports were 1 at Red Rock Res. on 11 Aug (SJD) and an immature in Worth Co. on 17 Aug (JLW).

White-eyed Vireo: A dark-eyed juvenile was in Warren Co. on 31 Aug (AMJ). Others were singles on 9 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ) and at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (JLF), and on 19 Sep at Cone M. (DRP).

Bell's Vireo: A "vireo day" occurred in Warren Co. on 31 Aug, when all 7 of Iowa's regular species were seen, including a Bell's (AMJ). The last was on 15 Sep in Warren Co. (THK, AMJ).

Solitary Vireo: The first was on 28 Aug at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC). Late was 1 at Waubonsie S.P. on 16 Oct, and very late was 1 on 14 Nov at Burlington (CRF)[record latest].

Philadelphia Vireo: The first was 1 on 19 Aug at Iowa City (JLF). The last was 1 on 29 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Red-eyed Vireo: A partial albino was at McIntosh Woods on 10 Aug (JLW).

- Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 was at Iowa City on 4 Sep (DRP), and 6 were at Dubuque on 6 Sep (PE).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** This species, whose numbers are thought to be declining, was the most widely reported warbler with 1-3 birds from 12 locations. The first were 2 on 18 Aug at Brookside P. in Ames (PM). The last were on 8 Sep with 1 at Trumbull L. (LAS) and 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC).
- Tennessee Warbler:** The first were 2 on 10 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ). Peaks of 20 were at A.A. Call S.P. on 28 Aug (MCK) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 1 Sep (DCP). The last was on 9 Oct in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** A very early bird was in Warren Co. on 18 Aug (AMJ)[record earliest]. The last was on 19 Oct at L. Macbride (THK).
- Nashville Warbler:** The first was on 13 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ). The last was seen n. of Iowa City from Fuller's living room during a blizzard on 2 Nov (*AMJ, JLF-details)[3rd latest].
- Northern Parula:** All reports were from a narrow time range. The first 2 were at Red Rock Res. on 31 Aug (MPr). The last 2 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 8 Sep (RLC).
- Yellow Warbler:** The last was 1 on 27 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Three reports on 18 Aug were the first, and all came from C Iowa with a high count of 17 at Brookside P. (PM). The last was on 7 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Magnolia Warbler:** The first were on 18 Aug, with a single in Warren Co. (AMJ) and 3 at Brookside P. (PM). The last were 2 on 28 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC).
- Cape May Warbler:** More common in the fall than spring, this species produced a dozen reports of 1-3 individuals. The first was quite early on 11 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ)[3rd earliest]. The last was 1 on 12 Sep at the Runnells A. (JiS).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Males were at W. Des Moines on 18 Sep (PA/RA, EIA/EuA) and Davenport on 21 Sep (PCP).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The first was early on 13 Aug at Runnells A. (MPr)[2nd earliest]. A peak of 100 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 29 Sep (DCP). The last were on 9 Nov with 6 in Johnson Co. (THK, DRP) and 20 at the Saylorville Res. (GJB).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** A bird on 13 Aug in Warren Co. was early (AMJ)[ties 3rd earliest]. The peak was 20 on 1 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP). The last was on 27 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** This species was also early with 1 on 10 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ)[3rd earliest]. The same location produced the last on 4 Sep (AMJ).
- Pine Warbler:** Three reports all described birds with unstreaked backs: 1 in Warren Co. on 24 Aug (AMJ-details)[ties 3rd earliest]; 1 at Davenport on 25 Aug (PCP-details); and 1 in Dubuque Co. on 9 Sep (PE-details).
- Prairie Warbler:** A male was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 7 Sep (CRF)[2nd latest].
- Palm Warbler:** By far the earliest record for this late migrant was on 17 Aug in Warren Co. (*AMJ)[record earliest]. Also early were 2 at Sweet M. on 2 Sep (DeC)[2nd earliest]. The last was on 6 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** This species, which is seen more often in the fall than spring, produced a flurry of 12 reports, including an early bird on 10 Aug n. of Iowa City (*JLF)[3rd earliest]. Unusually large numbers of individuals were described with 35 at A.A. Call S.P. on 28 Aug (MCK), 30 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 1 Sep (DCP), and 20 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 6 Sep (DeC). The last was on 8 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Single birds were in Warren Co. on 18 Aug and 7 Sep (AMJ).
- Cerulean Warbler:** The only report was 1 at Burlington on 2 Sep (CRF).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** The first was 1 on 10 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ). The peak was 15 in one hour at Brookside P. on 18 Aug (PM). The last was on 21 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- American Redstart:** 15 were at Iowa City on 26 Aug (DRP). The last was on 9 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** The only report was 1 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 17 Aug (DeC).
- Ovenbird:** The peak was 11 at A.A. Call S.P. on 5 Sep (MCK). The last was 1 on 8 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).
- Northern Waterthrush:** The first was in Marion Co. on 24 Aug (AMJ).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Two singles were reported without details.
- Kentucky Warbler:** 1 was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 6 Sep (DeC).
- Connecticut Warbler:** 1 was well described at Grammer Grove on 21 Sep (MPr-details).
- Mourning Warbler:** Singles were in Warren Co. (AMJ) and at Ames (PM) on 18 Aug; 2 were at Grammer Grove on 24 Aug (MPr); and 1 was at L. Manawa on 10 Sep (BKP).
- Common Yellowthroat:** The last were 2 on 10 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP).

Wilson's Warbler: The first was 1 on 14 Aug in Warren Co. (AMJ). The last was on 22 Sep also in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Canada Warbler: Ten reports from across the state described 1-8 birds with the first on 13 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and the last on 15 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Summer Tanager: 1 was in its normal range at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 9 Sep (CRF), but 1 at Spencer on 27 Oct was out of range and very late (*LAS)[record latest].

Scarlet Tanager: There were four September and early October reports, but a female at a W. Des Moines feeder from 1-14 Nov was quite late (JSi)[2nd latest].

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 15 were at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 14 Sep (DeC).

Indigo Bunting: Two reports were from October, with singles at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on the 5th (CRF) and in Warren Co. on the 14th (AMJ).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Birds of the western (spotted) race were reported from Spencer on 21 Sep (LAS) and Warren Co. on 5 Oct (AMJ). Five reports of single birds came from Cerro Gordo, Jefferson, Johnson, and Sioux counties, with the last on 7 Nov at Fairfield (DCP).

American Tree Sparrow: The first was on 6 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP).

Chipping Sparrow: There were five November reports, with the last on the 14th at Glendale Cem. in Des Moines (EuA/EIA). As many as two dozen were still at Burlington on 8 Nov (CRF).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Singles were reported without details on 30 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ) and at L. Manawa (BKP). The last was on 20 Oct in Linn Co. (THK-details).

Field Sparrow: November sightings included singles at Macbride Nature Recreation A. on 7 Nov (THK), at Cedar Rapids on 11 Nov (DLD), and in Appanoose Co. on 16 Nov (RLC).

Vesper Sparrow: The last were on 10 Nov when 1 was in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and 2 were at Pleasant Creek S.P. (DRP).

Lark Sparrow: 4 were at Banner Pits in Warren Co. on 24 Aug (AMJ).

Savannah Sparrow: The peak was 63 on 15 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). A late bird was a window kill at Ames found by L. Igl on 25 Oct (JJD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 was in Dickinson Co. on 15 Sep (LAS), and 2 lingered in Ida Co. until 25 Oct (PE-details).

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 were reported without details.

Le Conte's Sparrow: This species was widely reported with 14 sightings of 73 birds from across the state. The first was on 16 Sep at Dubuque (PE), and the last were 6 on 27 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC). The peak was 22 at Rathbun Res. on 20 Oct (RLC).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: This marsh sparrow was also widely seen, with 9 reports, all of single birds, except for 6 at Cone M. on 28 Sep (CRF). The first was 1 at the Runnells A. on 15 Sep (JLF, PCP). The last was on 2 Oct at Rock Creek S.P. (MPR-details).

Fox Sparrow: An unusually large number of 17 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 Nov was thought to be concentrated by the early November storm (DeC). The last was 1 on 17 Nov at Fairfield (DCP).

Song Sparrow: A bird of this species was seen feeding a fledgling cowbird on 11 Aug at the Runnells A. (JSi). The highest count was 22 in Cass Co. on 23 Oct (MAP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first were 3 on 17 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High counts were on 1 Oct with 6 at L. Manawa (BKP) and 5 in Warren Co. (AMJ). The last was 1 on 7 Nov at Macbride Nature Recreation A. (THK).

Swamp Sparrow: The only report described 70 birds at Saylorville Res. on 26 Sep (DRP).

White-throated Sparrow: The first was 1 on 31 Aug at Red Rock Res (MPR); 1 was still present at Mason City on 30 Nov (CFi).

White-crowned Sparrow: The first was 1 on 27 Sep at L. Manawa (BKP). A concentration of 12 was at Rathbun Res. on 20 Oct (RLC).

Harris' Sparrow: The first was on 1 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP). The only reports from eastern Iowa were 2 at Fairfield on 21 Oct (DCP) and 1 n. of Iowa City on 15 Nov (JLF).

Dark-eyed Junco: The first was on 22 Sep at Coralville Res. (DRP). The Oregon race was reported from Cerro Gordo (CFi), Jefferson (DCP), and Polk (RIC) counties.

Lapland Longspur: The first were 30 on 22 Oct in Grundy Co. (MPR). Of the 13 other reports, 7 came from the period of the late October/early November storm; storm-killed birds were described in Mills (BLW) and Woodbury (BFH) counties on 2 Nov.

Snow Bunting: There were 10 reports of unusually small flocks of 1-9 birds, with the first on 1 Nov in Grundy Co. (MPR).

Red-winged Blackbird: A flock of 8,000 was at Red Rock Res. on 3 Aug (RLC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: November sightings included a female on 4 Nov at a Boone feeder (SRL) and a male with Red-winged Blackbirds on 10 Nov in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Rusty Blackbird: 2 were early on 29 Sep in Winneshiek Co. (DeC)[2nd earliest]. A group of 50 was in Des Moines Co. on 17 Nov (CRF).

Brewer's Blackbird: A description of 7 came from Jasper Co. on 13 Nov (MPR-details). A male was in Linn Co. on 24 Nov (THK).

Common Grackle: A long ribbon of birds, estimated at 5,000, was in Polk Co. on 26 Sep (AMJ); 1 was lingering in Cass Co on 26 Nov (MAP).

Brown-headed Cowbird: The last was on 15 Nov at Mason City (RG).

Orchard Oriole: A bird was reported without details at Coralville Res. on 19 Aug (DLD).

Northern Oriole: 2 were still in Appanoose Co. on 2 Sep (RLC).

Purple Finch: The first were 9 on 13 Sep at Dubuque (PE).

House Finch: The first park record for Effigy Mounds N.M. was a female on 28 Sep (DeC).

White-winged Crossbill: The only report was 1 at Fairfield on 9 Nov (Erma Hartman fide DCP).

Common Redpoll: The first were 2 on 30 Oct in Ida Co. (PE). Singles were in Boone Co. on 7 Nov (SRL) and Linn Co. on 17 Nov (DLD), while a small flock was in Sioux Co. on 7 Nov (JV).

Pine Siskin: The first were 32 on 6 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK). There were 10 other reports in November of unusually small groups, mostly singles or pairs.

American Goldfinch: 116 were counted at Rathbun Res. on 13 Oct (RLC).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: As many as 30 were present at their usual Des Moines Co. location n. of Burlington on 5 Oct (CRF). It appears that this population is growing.



Snow Bunting, Macbride Nature Recreation area, 2 Nov. 1991. Photo by Tom Kent.

CONTRIBUTORS

* = documentation only

Carol A. Alexander (CAA), Fairfield; Pam Allen (PA), West Des Moines; Reid Allen (RA), West Des Moines; Eugene Armstrong (EuA), Booneville; Eloise Armstrong (EIA), Booneville; Ann M. Barker (AMB), Princeton; Carl J. Bendorf (CJB), Iowa City; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; Tanya E. Bray (TEB), Bellevue, NE; *Dave Carlisle (DaC), Red Oak; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Jim Durbin (JiD), Marion; Joyce Durbin (JoD), Marion; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn Fischer (CFi), Mason City; Charles R. Fuller (CRF), Burlington; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RG), Mason City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Sharron R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; *Richard H. Peiser (RHP), Glen Ellyn, IL; D. Randall Pinkston (DRP), Iowa City; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPR), Liscomb; Tim Schantz (TS), Knoxville; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; *Gerald D. White (GDW), Muscatine; and Barbara L. Wilson (BLW), Hastings.

211 Richard St., Iowa City, IA 52246, 6 Longview Knoll, RR #6, Iowa City, IA 52240, and 845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245

REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1990

CARL J. BENDORF

The Records Committee reviewed 42 records from 1990. Of these, 28 were accepted (2 into the category of unknown origin) and 14 were not accepted. Ivory Gull was added to the state list.

Committee members for 1990 with years in which their terms expire were: Raymond L. Cummins (1991), Francis L. Moore (1992), Mark Proescholdt (1993), Eugene Armstrong (1994), Robert Cecil (1995), Tanya E. Bray (1996), and Carl J. Bendorf (secretary, resigned following completion of 1990 record reviews).

During a meeting on 18 February in Des Moines the possibility of reducing committee size from seven to five members was discussed but no action was taken.

During a meeting in Des Moines on 29 July, a proposed manual of operating procedures was discussed and edited. The committee agreed to update the official state list following completion of the 1990 records. The committee also discussed possible procedures for conducting secretary and member reviews.

During a meeting at Booneville on 11 November, a final draft of the manual of operating procedures was approved. It was decided to send summaries of reviewed records to the original documenters at least quarterly. A proposed secretary review form was approved. Following a discussion of procedures for nominating new members, Cummins was nominated to a six-year term.

Records were classified as follows: A = accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation only, -E = possible escaped/introduced bird or origin unknown) and NA = not accepted.

1990 RECORDS ACCEPTED

(All A-D unless otherwise noted; * = documentation not previously cited in Iowa Bird Life)

Red-throated Loon: Singles were at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (IBL 61:17, Kent 1991a) and L. Manawa on 12-13 Nov (IBL 61:17).

Pacific Loon: Single birds were at Little Wall L. on 23 Oct (IBL 61:17) and at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (IBL 61:17).

Ibis species: Two ibis, one clearly a White-faced Ibis, were at Cone M. on 23 Mar (IBL 60:64,65). The second bird had some features (shape and color of facial border and leg color) that suggested Glossy Ibis. Research by committee members indicated that the features reported could also be consistent with a White-faced Ibis not yet completely in breeding plumage; therefore, this bird was accepted as ibis species.

Ross's Goose: Single birds were east of their expected haunts at Cone M. on 11 Mar (IBL 60:66) and Coralville Res. on 2 Mar (IBL 60:66, Kent 1991a).

Mississippi Kite: A sub-adult bird was at Coralville Res. on 19 May (IBL 60:67, Kent 1991a, Kent 1992).

Snowy Plover: One was near Burlington on 28 Apr (*Chuck Fuller, IBL 60:64, 67).

Long-billed Curlew: One was at IPL Ponds on 4 Jul (*W. Ross Silcock, *Tanya E. Bray, IBL 60:101,103, Silcock 1991).

Red Knot: Two juvenile birds were documented by many observers w. of Huxley 9-13 Sep (IBL 61:20).

Western Sandpiper: A very late bird (reported as basic plumage) was at Coralville Res. on 13 Oct (IBL 61:20).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: A juvenile was studied by many at Coralville Res. on 14 Oct (IBL 61:20, Kent 1991a, 1991b).

Parasitic Jaeger: A juvenile was documented at Saylorville Res. on 3 Sep (IBL 61:20).

Laughing Gull: An adult was photographed (A-P) at Saylorville Res. on 13 Apr by Stephen J. Dinsmore (photo only).

- Laughing Gull:** A bird at L. Manawa on 9-10 Sep (*IBL* 61:20) was wearing a leg band and had escaped from nearby Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, apparently overcoming surgery designed to prevent flight (category A-E).
- California Gull:** An adult at Saylorville Res. was documented by many observers from 8 to 23 Sep and 1 to 14 Oct (*IBL* 61:20, Dinsmore 1992). A first-winter bird was at Coralville Res. on 27-28 Oct (*IBL* 61:20, Kent 1991a, 1991c).
- Thayer's Gull:** One first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. on 21 Nov (*IBL* 61:21).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An adult was at Bettendorf and Lock and Dam 15 on 17-19 Feb (*IBL* 60:49, 52).
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** A very unusual record of an adult bird feeding in a farm field with Ring-billed Gulls on 11 Nov was n. of Ventura (*Jan L. Walter, *IBL* 61:21).
- Ivory Gull:** A first-winter bird delighted many observers and established a first confirmed state record (A-P) at Red Rock Res. from 24 Dec to 1 Jan 1991 (*IBL* 61:53, 57; *IBL* 61 (2):cover) (photo in Knoxville *Journal Express* 5 Jan 1991, Dinsmore 1991).
- Least Flycatcher:** An extraordinarily late bird was studied at Red Rock Res. 16-18 Dec (*Ann M. Johnson, *Tim Schantz, photos, *IBL* 61:49, 50, 58). The identification was based on overall coloration, short primary extension, distinct wing bars, and a sharp "whit" call note.
- Black-billed Magpie:** One was near Sioux City on 29 Dec (*Jerry L. Probst, *IBL* 61:50, 53, 58).
- Yellow Grosbeak:** A bird visiting a feeder near Elkhart from late Nov through 28 Dec was seen by many and documented by no fewer than ten observers (*D. Mosman, *T. Schantz, photos, et al., *IBL* 61:49, 50, 59). Photos also appeared in the Des Moines *Register* and *Bird Watcher's Digest* (Porter 1991). There are few accepted U.S. records outside of some late summer sightings in Arizona. Several observers and other interested persons suggested that natural vagrancy might be possible but others of those consulted, (including Kenn Kaufman, Gary Rosenberg, and Bruce Peterjohn) seemed to feel that this was unlikely or, at least, difficult to determine. Without a clearly established pattern of vagrancy, the origin of this bird is uncertain and it was accepted into category A-E.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** A male was near Booneville on 30 May (*Eloise Armstrong, *IBL* 61:71).
- Green-tailed Towhee:** A bird was photographed (A-P) (*IBL* 60 (3):cover) and documented at West Des Moines on 22 May into June (*IBL* 60:72, 106, Quinn 1990).
- Summer Tanager:** Photos of a lingering tanager at Pleasant Valley on 2 Dec (*Brian Blevins, *IBL* 61:53, 59) were identified as a Summer Tanager by Gary Rosenberg of Tucson, Arizona.

1990 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

- Smew:** A record of bird on the Mississippi River was reviewed but there was no evidence that the bird was in Iowa (*IBL* 60:64, 66).
- Mississippi Kite:** Several brief descriptions did not contain enough detail to eliminate other species (*IBL* 60:67, 101, 102).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** A fly-by was not seen well enough to be conclusive (*IBL* 60:65, 67).
- Merlin:** An early summer report was of a brief observation and American Kestrel could not be eliminated (*IBL* 60:103).
- Black Rail:** A description of a small, dark rail was suggestive of this species but none of the key field marks were seen (chestnut nape, bill size and color, white on back or flanks) (*IBL* 61:16, 19).
- Mew Gull:** A description submitted for a sub-adult bird had features that were also consistent with a Ring-billed Gull (*IBL* 61:16, 20).
- Thayer's Gull:** A record from Keokuk on 6 Nov (*IBL* 61:21) was withdrawn by the observer.
- Iceland Gull:** Analysis of the location indicated this bird was probably in Illinois (*IBL* 60:64, 69).
- American Pipit:** A bird in February was described with insufficient detail to eliminate similar species (*IBL* 60:53).
- Northern Shrike:** A bird in July was almost certainly a Loggerhead Shrike (*IBL* 60:101, 105).
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** A female was reported in late May but a photo showed a bird with only a patch of orange feathers on an otherwise heavily streaked breast and flanks, indicating either a Rose-breasted Grosbeak or a hybrid (*IBL* 60:71).
- Lark Bunting:** A report from western Iowa was suggestive but not conclusive (*IBL* 60:65, 72).
- Smith's Longspur:** A late fall record was suggestive of this species but could have been a Lapland Longspur (*IBL* 61:17, 24).

Purple Finch: A bird visiting a feeder in July would be unprecedented (*IBL* 60:101, 106). The details did not exclude the much more likely House Finch.

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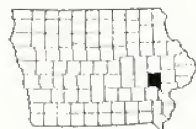
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845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245

MISSISSIPPI KITE AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

On 19 May 1990, I was watching shorebirds at the Babcock Access at the Coralville Reservoir, Johnson County, Iowa when the shorebirds suddenly flushed and I looked up and saw a raptor. It was hard to judge the bird's size; perhaps it was as large as a Northern Harrier or Peregrine Falcon. It had long, pointed wings that were rather broad, but not as broad as a buteo. Belly, breast, and head appeared white with slight dark line through the eye. The head was small. The underwing linings were white and the flight feathers were dark gray, but the dividing line between white and gray was not distinct. The upper wings and back appeared all gray to me. The tail was thin at the base and flared to a square tip. The upper tail surface was browner than the wings and the under tail appeared dark. The bird glided and sailed as it circled and moved across the reservoir and out of sight. The bird was moving northwest and then north with a 25-mile-per-hour southwest wind.



The pointed wings indicated to me that the bird was a kite or falcon. The gliding rather than flapping or hovering flight suggested a kite rather than a falcon. The white body and head also excluded any of the falcons. The lack of a white rump and the flight pattern excluded Northern Harrier from consideration. White-tailed Kite has a white tail and black shoulder. The lack of white patches in the secondaries and the brown tail fit the description of a subadult Mississippi Kite. I looked for bands in the tail, but I saw none. Failure to see them could be due to lighting or distance, but according to Clark and Wheeler (1987), "A few immatures have solid, unbanded dark brown tails." The prominent light and dark underwing puzzled me, but Dunne et al. (1988) say, "Immature has body and underwing coverts buffy, with dark streaking and

spotting of variable density; may be lighter or darker than illustrated." The underwing coverts and body appeared about the same shade to me, and the lighting and distance may have precluded my seeing any streaking. This bird appeared lighter than the two immatures I saw at Dudgeon Lake in 1989 (Conrads et al. 1989).

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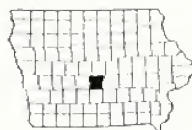
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211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

CALIFORNIA GULL AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

At 7:45 a.m. on 8 September 1990, I arrived at Oak Grove Beach Recreation Area at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County. About 60 Ring-billed Gulls were resting on the beach, and among them was a larger, darker-mantled gull. The bird was similar in size to the largest Ring-billed Gulls, but slightly larger than others. I approached closer and noted that, when compared to a Ring-billed Gull, the bird had duller yellow legs, a stouter bill with black and red spots near the tip of the lower mandible, and a darker gray mantle.



From 8:14-9:27 a.m. I was able to study the bird at close range as it fed and rested with the flock of Ring-billed Gulls at nearby Cherry Glen Recreation Area. The bird was slightly larger than most of the Ring-billed Gulls, although one or two of the biggest Ring-billed Gulls were as large as the bird I was studying. Proportionately, the bird was heavier and larger-headed than a Ring-billed Gull. The mantle was dark gray. I estimated the mantle color to be about midway between those of a Ring-billed Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull. The wingtips were mostly black with large, white mirrors near the tips of the outer primaries. There was a noticeable white trailing edge to the wing. The head was mostly white with some obvious dark brown streaks on the crown and nape, and a few on the side of the head. Eye color was not seen well, though it appeared dark every time I examined it. The bill was yellow with single red and black spots, somewhat blended together, near the distal end of the lower mandible. The red spot was immediately above and slightly posterior to the black spot. The bill was heavier than the bill of a Ring-billed Gull and had a distinct gonys. The legs were pale gray-green, unlike the bright yellow legs of a Ring-billed Gull. Leg length appeared similar to a Ring-billed Gull. The underparts and tail were white. Based on the plumage, I concluded that the bird was an adult California Gull in basic plumage.

After studying the bird in detail, I contacted other birders. The bird was not relocated until 14 September, despite searching on previous days. I observed the bird several times between 14-23 September and noted the following. The bird was clearly an adult in basic plumage. The dark brown streaks on the crown and nape were

separated from the dark gray mantle by a white collar across the back of the neck. I again studied the size of the bird and the bill structure as compared to nearby Ring-billed Gulls, and confirmed what I had noted earlier.

On 11 October 1990, I located an adult California Gull in basic plumage feeding with Ring-billed Gulls at the north end of Saylorville Reservoir near Jester County Park. This bird had light-brown streaking on the head and nape and appeared noticeably larger and heavier-bodied than the Ring-billed Gulls it associated with. I believe that this may have been a different bird than the individual noted earlier in September.

California Gulls are rare but regular vagrants to the Midwest, with smaller numbers occurring east to the East Coast. *American Birds* lists records for 13 states east of the Mississippi River since 1980. Most records occurred from July to December, with a few of the birds overwintering. Adults were reported most often, though young California Gulls may be missed because of their similarity to other gulls.

This is the second record of a California Gull in Iowa. The first record occurred on 24 November 1989 at Credit Island, Scott County (Petersen, P. C. 1991. California Gull at Davenport, first accepted Iowa record. *Iowa Bird Life* 61:121-122). It is interesting that a second California Gull appeared in Iowa in fall 1990, a first-winter bird at Coralville Reservoir, Johnson County (Kent, T. H. 1991. First-winter California Gull at Coralville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 61:123-124). This species is probably more regular in Iowa than these records indicate. California Gulls breed as closed as Waubay and Bitter Lakes in northeastern South Dakota, about 150 miles from northwestern Iowa. In Iowa, this species should be looked for in fall, especially August to November. Based on records from surrounding states, spring records are less likely, but could occur during March to May.

Dept. of Zoology, Box 7617, North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh, NC 27695-7617.

IOWA'S FIRST BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

PETER C. PETERSEN

At mid-morning of 18 September 1989, Brian Blevins and I were birding Otter Creek Marsh from the southeastern corner of the pond areas. We noticed a medium-sized raptor flying from south to north about 300 meters west of us. We could see it was long tailed and had pointed wings, but the predominant pale plumage, very light-gray body, and light-gray primaries made it clear it was not a falcon. We both noted the black area on the leading edge of the inner wing from the bend to the body. As we had both seen this bird previously, we said "Black-shouldered Kite" almost simultaneously. The kite was chased by a Red-winged Blackbird which the kite dove at. The blackbird provided a good size comparison. I was using 10 x 40 Zeiss binoculars and Brian had 7 x 35 binoculars. The sky was clear and the sun was to the side and somewhat behind us making for excellent viewing conditions. After the bird flew out of sight, we drove to the north border of the area but we did not encounter it again. Since the species is expanding its range northward, it should be looked for, especially during the migration seasons.

This is the first accepted record of this species for Iowa but there are several records from nearby states. These include a 9-10 May 1987 record from near Galesburg, Knox Co., Illinois, (Bohlen, 1989, *The Birds of Illinois*, Indiana Univ. Press, p. 45)



and a 15-17 May 1987 record for central Wisconsin (same bird?) as well as a 6-27 June 1964 record, also in central Wisconsin (Robbins, 1991, *Wisconsin Birdlife*, Univ. Wisconsin Press, p. 203), and a 14 June 1976 record for Nodaway County in northwestern Missouri (Robbins and Easterla, 1991, *Birds of Missouri*, Univ. Missouri Press, p. 93).

235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

I.O.U. BUSINESS

FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Indianola, Saturday, 14 September 1991, 3:30 -4:30 p.m.

PRESIDING: ANN BARKER

Barker thanked the Rolling Hills Audubon Society for hosting a fine meeting. Members attending their first I.O.U. meeting were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

Minutes for the spring business meeting had been published in *Iowa Bird Life*. It was moved (Bud Gode, seconded by Jacqueline Wacker) to waive reading them and to approve the minutes as published. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Copies of a financial statement for the year to date prepared by Pam Allen (who was unable to attend the meeting) were distributed. There were no questions. The Board of Directors will consider the 1992 budget at its November meeting.

Committee Reports

Records: Francis Moore reported that Carl Bendorf has resigned as committee Secretary. The 1989 report and the new official state checklist will be published soon in *Iowa Bird Life*. Work on the 1990 report is in progress.

Publications: The Board reappointed Dave Edwards to a second term.

Library-Historical: The Board reappointed the following to second terms: Tom Kent, Jim Dinsmore, and Hank Zaletel.

Membership: Jim Sinclair was reappointed by the Board to a second term. Also appointed were Ann Johnson, Diane Porter, and Mary Jo Hartogh.

Education: Rick Hollis (Chair), Linda Zaletel, Beth Brown, and Diane Porter were reappointed to the committee. Hollis reported that the Iowa Conservation Education Council has pledged \$500 toward publication of the booklet.

Big Day: Co-chairs Eugene Armstrong and Ray Cummins were reappointed. Awards will be presented at the Banquet.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson (Chair), Bob Cecil, Barb Wilson, John Fleckenstein, and Jim Dinsmore were reappointed.. Bob Cecil summarized statistics on blocks that were completed.

Nominating: Barker has appointed a committee composed of Carol Thompson (Chair), Pete Petersen, and Ray Cummins to nominate a slate of candidates for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and two Board positions. They will report to the Board this fall, and the slate will run for office at the spring 1992 meeting.

Old Business

Upcoming meetings: The spring meeting is planned for Camp Iodiseca near Cedar Rapids, hosted by the Cedar Rapids Audubon Society. Dale Fye and Jim Durban reviewed plans to date. The fall 1992 meeting may be held in northeast Iowa if a host can be found. Bob Cecil is checking into possibly holding the spring 1993 meeting in southeast Iowa. A fall field trip to the Red Rock area, coordinated by Jim Sinclair, is planned for 23 November. Pete Petersen is looking into the possibility of a spring field trip to the prairie chicken booming grounds near Mt. Ayr.

Rick Hollis reported on the I.O.U. traveling display which is on display at the meeting. He and Carol Thompson are in charge of the schedule for the display; members are encouraged to use it to spread the word about the I.O.U. at meetings and events. A round of applause was given for Carol Thompson in appreciation of her work on the project.

New Business

Sue Stroyls and Barb Wilson proposed having a Spring Bird Count. This would be an ongoing study whose purpose would be to gather data in a consistent manner on spring migration and resident birds throughout Iowa. Results would be published in *Iowa Bird Life*. The Board of Directors has endorsed the idea, recommending that I.O.U. sponsor the Iowa Spring Bird Count to be held on the Sunday after the Saturday of the Illinois Spring Count. Stroyls presented her proposal and distributed information. It was moved (Hank Zaletel, seconded by Rick Hollis) that the President appoint a committee to plan the project as recommended by the Board. After discussion about its purpose and the date of the count, Zaletel called the question. The motion passed. Stroyls was appointed chair of an ad hoc committee, with other members to be selected later.

Jim Fuller had inquired whether arrangements could be made to obtain entry for members to restricted sites such as power company properties for birding. The Board asked Fuller to make the official inquiries.

Jim Sheib and Jim Fuller described a computer bulletin board service which would allow reception of other hotlines across the country as well as giving us the ability to post the Iowa Birdline. The Board supports further investigation.

The possibility of obtaining an 800 number for the Iowa Birdline was proposed by Fuller and discussed. The Board has asked Fuller to provide further information on cost.

Fuller and Francis Moore reported breaches in dikes at Otter Creek Marsh and Big Marsh, respectively. The Board asked Fuller to write to the D.N.R. encouraging prompt repair of both.

Jim Dinsmore described plans for the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Ames on 24-27 June 1992. Volunteer help will be needed. I.O.U. members are encouraged to volunteer and to be involved in the meeting.

Rick Hollis announced that Carol Thompson is putting together a directory of local bird clubs. Anyone interested in being listed should contact Hollis or Thompson.

The meeting was adjourned.

BOOK REVIEW

Wisconsin Birdlife: Population and Distribution Past & Present, by Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1991, 702 pp., hardcover, 11 1/4" x 8 3/4" x 1 5/8" \$75.00. This fine book is the long-awaited accompaniment to Owen J. Gromme's book of paintings, *Birds of Wisconsin*, published in 1963. *Wisconsin Birdlife* is encyclopedic, benefiting serious amateur bird students, professional ornithologists, and more casual appreciators of neighborhood birdlife.

The heart of the book is Part I, the 501 pages of species accounts. Each account begins with a brief summary of status, habitat, migration dates, breeding data (if any) and a reference to the species portrait in *Birds of Wisconsin* (if any). A several-paragraph discussion of observations, citations of data sources, and comments by the author about frequency of observations and changes in range follow each account.

These paragraphs provide the best reading and information for active birders unfamiliar with Wisconsin birds and birding. For example, a visitor along the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien in Grant County, Wisconsin near Dubuque might be startled to spot a Great Blue Heron in January. He or she should be startled. However, the discussion points out that the Great Blue Heron is a hardy bird capable of withstanding the rigors of a Wisconsin winter, and a range map shows nine mid-December to late-February records along the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers between 1960 and 1990.

The discussion of the Great Blue Heron also documents the decline of the species in the state, offering theories to explain the decline, but acknowledging none has been proven. Nestling great blues banded in Wisconsin have turned up in Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Mexico, Belize, and Costa Rica. One bird was recovered in Cuba. Birders familiar with the Great Blue Heron in Wisconsin but

uncertain of its wintering range outside of Wisconsin can also benefit from the discussion.

The birder visiting Wisconsin near Prairie du Chien would not be likely to spot a Gyrfalcon, according to the discussion and range map. We read that the state's 52 observations are scattered across 29 counties, and that aside from the city of Superior, no one region can claim a predominant number of sightings. Like many of the range maps, clusters of sightings from central, east, and southeastern Wisconsin may reflect concentrations of birders as much as concentrations of birds. Based on the discussion and range maps, to look for a Gyrfalcon the birder visiting near Prairie du Chien should head east and north to central Wisconsin, east to Milwaukee, or north to Superior. (I recommend Superior.)

Discussions of the Great Gray Owl and Boreal Owl document and confirm the need to revise assumptions about the scarcity of both species in Wisconsin. The Great Gray Owl has been found to nest in the state (1988), and bird-listeners afield in northern Wisconsin during late March and April may discover that the Boreal Owl is not as rare as most people assume. There was a first breeding record in Minnesota in 1978.

Many birders, especially younger birders with an academic and technical background in ornithology, will also enjoy James Hall Zimmerman's discussions of "Wisconsin's Environmental Setting" and "History of Wisconsin Bird Habitats" (57 pages), and "Habitat Preferences" (37 pages). I find Table 4, page 649, very general. Red-throated Loons and Black-legged Kittiwakes prefer lakes and streams! The information in this table is clearly presented in the species accounts.

The history of ornithology in Wisconsin is discussed in 31 pages of text, and includes fine portraits of Thure and Ludwig Kumlien, well-known early Wisconsin ornithologists, and Aldo Leopold, perhaps more widely known for *A Sand County Almanac*.

The extensive bibliography of sources takes up 25 pages. Within the text are numerous black and white photos of birds.

A few quibbles. Though Zimmerman defines terms such as "mesic" and "xeric" in his text, a basic glossary would have helped non-academic birders. The state maps inside the front and back covers show no cities between La Crosse and Superior, and Green Bay and Superior. Even some residents of Madison might have benefited from seeing where, say, Grantsburg and Medford are located. Finally, Robbins refers in the preface to his list of suggested research projects constructed as he prepared his book. This list is widely circulated among birders in Wisconsin, but might easily have been included in his book both as a stimulus to readers and as a landmark to readers 100 years hence.--Fred Leshner, 509 Winona St., La Crosse, WI 54603.



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